

FUMC Preschool's Curriculum

The First United Methodist Church Preschool Curriculum: Our weekly Chapel program on alternating Thursday or Friday mornings with Pastor Kevin Grills and Jesse & Emily Strong from our Church Children's Ministry is our highlight. To be in the Sanctuary with the Church Pastor and hear Bible stories about God and Jesus in the Old and New Testaments is what makes us unique in our community. There is a strong connection between our church and our preschool through Chapel, daily conversation, prayers before eating and Bible songs. If you would like to visit Chapel on a given Chapel morning between 9:15-9:45 am, you are invited to come. Please call our office so we can expect you.

The Wee Learn Curriculum by Life Way Press involves teacher observation and documentation in relation to curriculum objectives. FUMC focuses on social and emotional skills needed for future success in school, relationships and life. We offer a well-balanced program which fosters intellectual growth by discovering, exploring and experiencing. We use child-directed and teacher-directed instructional strategies to discover letters, numbers, shapes, colors and general knowledge that is age-appropriate. Teachers set up learning centers, establish schedules and routines, organize choice times and small/large group activity. Our interest and learning centers include: Blocks and Large Toys, Dramatic Play, Art Center, Library, Table Toy manipulatives /puzzles, Discovery Center, Writing Center, Computer, Music & Movement, Sand & Water Table and Outdoor Play. Materials in these Centers meet the developmental needs of young children and enhance the domains of learning in our VPK program. Teacher observation & documentation leads to a variety of instructional strategies to guide learning. Teachers interact with children throughout the day by asking open-ended questions, engaging in conversation, observing activities and noting social interaction among classmates. Social skills are a large part of Wee Learn Curriculum as children learn how to interact and solve conflicts peacefully. "**Conscious Discipline**" by Becky Bailey is used to help achieve these goals. Children learn to respect individual differences and cultures, to include rather than exclude in work and play, to cooperate with other children and adults and to care about others. We desire all children to develop their own inner discipline, to be empathetic towards others and to be good citizens. Teachers and Staff use a "Conscious Discipline" approach in directing children by stating what they want to see instead of correcting with a "don't or stop" approach.

The Starfall Curriculum is implemented in our VPK program. This is an age appropriate four-turning-five year old curriculum that inspires motivation, curiosity and joyful discovery through practical and proven methods, based on scientifically proven instructional skills and strategies. This integrated curriculum was written by master teachers and field-tested classrooms nationwide. Anticipating Common Core standards for Pre-K, Starfall's framework flows seamlessly in the Common Core structure, preparing children to meet future standards for K-12 performance in all private or public education settings beyond the preschool experience.